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of the strange and intricate Mexican and Central American calendar systems.

The Report closes with a paper on Tusayan Snake Ceremonies by Jesse Walter Fewkes. It is amply illustrated and presents such an accurate and faithful delineation of ritual as we are accustomed to find in the writings of this careful student. He has some concluding remarks on the secret meaning of these ceremonies, and compares them with the snake dances of other American tribes.

In concluding this hasty survey of these two large volumes, we are impressed with the general excellence of the papers they enclose. They compare advantageously with any publication of a similar character in Europe. They are free from wild theorizing or fixed prejudices, and they present the result of original observation and careful independent study. All who are interested in the subjects which they discuss will earnestly hope that our central government will continue to appropriate generously to the support of the Bureau of Ethnology.

D. G. BRINTON.

*The Coronado Expedition, 1540-1542.* By GEORGE PARKER WINSHIP. [Extract from the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology.] (Washington: Government Printing Office. 1896 [1897.]) Pp. 329-613, pls. xxxviii-lxxxiv.)

THERE has recently been brought to completion at the national capital the most beautiful structure on the American continent designed as a repository for books. The mural decorations of the Library of Congress are a marvel of beauty, and among them are emblazoned the names of many of the makers of American history and culture. Among the earlier explorers the names of Columbus, Vespucci, Balboa, Magellan, Narvaez, Cabeza de Vaca, De Soto, Ayllon, Cabrillo, Cortez, Pizarro, La Salle, Marquette, Cabot, Champlain and others of lesser note are prominently represented; but one looks in vain for the name of the leader of the most pretentious expedition that ever trod American soil—an expedition which led to the discovery of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, the Rio Grande, and the great plains with their teeming herds of bison, and which conquered the even then far-famed "Seven Cities of Cibola."

It is somewhat strange that so little has apparently been known of Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, for one of his letters, as well as the narrative of the contemporaneous voyage of the fleet under Alarcon up the Gulf of California and the mouth of the Rio Colorado, appears in Hakluyt's *Voyages*, while Ramusio, Herrera and other chroniclers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries recorded the same and other documents bearing on the expedition, thus giving comparatively ready access to at least a part of the history of Coronado's marvelous undertaking. That which makes the lack of general knowledge of the expedition even more strange is the fact that the principal narrative of the expedition was translated from the Spanish into French and published as late as 1838

by Henri Ternaux-Compans in his well-known *Voyages, Relations et Mémoires*. This is the *relacion* of Pedro de Castañeda de Najera, who followed the fortunes, or rather the misfortunes, of the expedition evidently in the capacity of a private soldier. Within the last decade the excellent historical work of Bandelier has added a vast amount of information to the previously meagre knowledge of the Coronado explorations.

From the importance of the Coronado expedition, which opened the way to the subsequent colonization of the unknown territory between Culiacan in western central Mexico and the great plains of eastern New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, Mr. Winship's memoir, which is by far the most exhaustive and most readily accessible account of the journey, is a genuine contribution to western American history.

The first part of the work comprises an historical introduction which gives in elaborate detail the causes of the expedition. The condition of affairs in New Spain during the early half of the sixteenth century, the remarkable wanderings of Cabeza de Vaca and his companions, and the journey of Friar Marcos de Niza to Cibola which resulted in the discovery of Arizona and the death of the negro Estevan at Zuñi, are all carefully described. A summary of the organization and equipment of the Coronado expedition is next given, and the fortunes of the explorer are faithfully followed from the time the great army started on its journey to an unknown part of a little known world, until their return, two years later, to the city of Mexico. The text is illustrated with elaborate notes—bibliographic, ethnologic and historical—giving greater value to an already highly valuable and delightful introduction. And yet to the critical student that which follows is the most valuable of all; not alone because these chronicles of Coronado's enterprise are brought together in convenient form from many obscure sources (one of them indeed not hitherto having been published), but also because the copies have been so carefully made and translated with such fidelity.

The first document is the narrative of Castañeda, the most important because the most detailed of all. The original manuscript, or more properly a copy of the original made at Seville in 1596, is now in the Lenox Library, New York City, and is the one used by Mr. Winship and previously by Ternaux, the latter of whom not only rendered the language of the original accounts with great freedom, but in several cases failed to understand what the original writer endeavored to relate. It is due to this that a number of writers on southwestern history have made serious, but under the circumstances quite excusable, blunders. The Spanish text is immediately followed by Mr. Winship's excellent English translation.

Next follow translations of the letters from Mendoza to the king, April 17, 1540, and from Coronado to Mendoza, August 3, 1540; the *Traslado de las Nuevas*; the *Relacion postrera de Sivola*, in both Spanish and English, which is printed for the first time through the courtesy of the late Joaquin Garcia Icazbalceta of Mexico City; the letter from

Coronado to the king, October 20, 1541; a translation of the important narrative of Jaramillo, one of Coronado's officers; the report of Hernando de Alvarado, also of Coronado's command, and a translation of the "Testimony concerning those who went on the expedition," which throws much light on the causes which led to these noteworthy explorations.

The memoir closes with a "List of works useful to the student of the Coronado expedition" which, while it does not presume to be a bibliography of southwestern history, is doubtless the best list of works on that section yet brought together.

Students of the most interesting corner of our country may congratulate themselves that one of their number has performed so well a task which will at last give them access to a historical treasure. It will be the fault of neither Mr. Winship nor the Bureau of Ethnology if the coming generation know no more of the foremost makers of American history than those who were responsible for the glaring omission from the Congressional Library roll of honor.

F. W. H.

*The New England Primer.* A History of its Origin and Development, with a reprint of the unique copy of the earliest known edition, and many fac-simile illustrations and reproductions. Edited by PAUL LEICESTER FORD. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Co. 1897. Pp. xiii, 354.)

IN this publication Mr. Ford has made an important contribution to the early history of education in America. The authorship of the *New England Primer*, the sources of its component parts, and the alterations made in various editions, are treated fully and critically in the introduction. The "Little Bible of New England," as it has been aptly called, has influenced, probably more than any other elementary book for children, the character and creed of many leading actors in our country's history. For a century and a half it was one of the first books put into the hands of children, not only in New England, but even in the Middle Colonies. It was also printed abroad, in England and in Scotland, for the use of children there. It is stated that one Boston bookseller printed in 1757 an edition of 10,000 copies, and it is known that Franklin and Hall printed over 37,000 copies at Philadelphia between 1749 and 1766, yet of all the numerous editions that were issued in New England and elsewhere scarcely a vestige can now be found. The oldest copy known dates at least thirty-seven years after the first edition appeared, and but two other editions are entered in Mr. Ford's bibliography prior to that of 1761.

There were "A B C" books and "Primers" of the Church of Rome printed even in the fifteenth century, and similar publications in English from the time of Henry VIII., but the combination of alphabet lessons and catechism had its origin among the nonconformists, the earliest instance of the kind cited by Mr. Ford being dated 1591. In New England the